



# Newsletter

April 2013

<http://neville residents association.weebly.com/>

Joint Chairs: Alan Chapman  
Graham King

Treasurer: Daphne Wyatt

Minutes Secretary: Vicki Trenhaile  
Editor: Carole Kirby

## 1. NJBS Extravaganza – Saturday 8 June 2013

The Residents Association is planning to have a table selling cakes, books, bric-a-brac etc at Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society's fund raising event. The proceeds from our stall will go to the NRA funds for community projects. All contributions gratefully received, please contact Daphne Wyatt, tel: 475966.

Residents who would like to have a stall to sell their own handicrafts, cakes, jam, plants, or unwanted items etc, contact Daphne as above. As a member of NRA the cost of hire will be for a community table, at a lower cost than a commercial one.

Previous Extravanzas have been very enjoyable and successful events.

## 2. Residents Association Meeting: 25 March 2013

Colin Reynolds, from St Mary's Social Centre, came to the meeting to thank everyone for supporting their petition against the centre's possible closure, and sale of the site for redevelopment. Over 4000 signatures were handed in to Lewes District Council. As a result, the submission will be debated on 8 May at a public meeting held in the council chamber.

He said that an application had been made for St Mary's to be listed as a 'Community Asset' under the Localism Act 2011. This will be considered by Lewes District Council on 10 April. If successful, this should give time for the trustees to consider how to raise money to buy the centre to secure its future. It is valued at £156,000.

## 3. Lewes Neighbourhood Development Plan

In February, members of the Town Council and a representative from South Downs National Park held an open day to introduce their proposal to produce a neighbourhood development plan to be included in the District Council's "Core Strategy" document. They also gathered ideas from the public about how Lewes should grow and improve. To collate these views, a steering committee of representatives from local community groups

will be set up, and NRA hopes to be included. Of particular importance to Nevill is that Landport Bottom is not built on, and that St Mary's Social Centre remains an asset.

The steering group could take two years to produce the plan, followed by a public referendum. It will need 50% support from voters to be accepted by LDC.

## 4. Surface Water Management Plan

The Residents Association continues to play an active role in the development of this plan to reduce the risk of flooding on the Nevill Estate. A thorough inspection and cleaning of the surface water drains, started last year is due to complete shortly. The work to date has significantly reduced the chance of flooding, except during intense rain. A regular maintenance programme will ensure that the system continues to operate effectively. The next step is to look at the soakaways, and the foul water contamination on Nevill Green during heavy rain. Involvement of the wider community is also part of the process and it is hoped that Council Officers and representatives from Southern Water will attend the next Residents Association meeting on 20 May.

During part of the drain cleaning, some residents suffered from a discolouration in their drinking water. This was not pollution and quite safe, it was caused by too much water being taken from the water mains to clean the drains. The company have apologised, and offered to make a donation to the Victoria Hospital fund.

## 5. Do you pay too much?

Rainwater from most properties on Nevill goes into soakaways and does not enter the surface water drains that Southern Water maintains. Check your bill, and see if you receive a discount (typically just over £20). If not, contact Southern Water on 0845 2720845 and claim your discount – they should backdate it.

## 6. Grit Bins

The new bins have been well used over the winter months. Please be sparing with the grit, it does not need much to be effective; it costs the Association £70 to refill each one. The County Highways apologised about the delay in refilling them; they were mending potholes! We have also received proposals to install a grit bin by the twitten on Highdown Road and another for the top of Highdown Road. Suggestions for other locations, and how we might fund these, would be welcome.

## 7. Garden Trail

After eleven years Graham King has retired from organising the very popular Garden Trail. It has been a successful event, raising the majority of NRA funds. We thank him for all his hard work and determination to make it an interesting family day. If anyone would like to take over the reins please contact him on 01273 473779.

## 8. Landport Bottom

The January Management Committee meeting discussed several points likely to be of interest to residents: realigning perimeter fencing; possible seasonal restrictions on horse access at the SW entrance; dog fouling problems, especially at the motor road entrance, and parking. For more information, look at the Association website.

## 9. Environmental Budget Bids

The new bench in front of the shops in Highdown Road, which NRA was awarded from the 2012 DLC Environmental Budget, has still not been installed. There have been various problems over land ownership and location of the bench. ESCC is currently holding a 28 day consultation with shop owners and neighbours over its positioning. Hopefully, we will eventually have somewhere to sit.

The bid from the 2013-14 budget to replace three trees in Downs Close will be voted on at the Housing Consultative committee meeting on 22 April.

## 10. TOLD (Tenant of Lewes District Council)

There is now a link from the TOLD website to the NRA website, a reciprocal link on the NRA website is to be installed.

**Tenants Representation.** TOLD and the Housing Consultative committee now have new constitutions, which extend voting rights

for tenants. This does help with the NRA problem that the housing representative is not a tenant and therefore cannot vote on significant issues such as rent setting etc. However, we really do need a LDC tenant to be a housing representative, or at least someone to give us feedback.

## 11. Community Development Plan

LDC Housing are updating their Community Development Plan, and have asked NRA for a list of projects it has undertaken that would be of interest to other groups.

## 12. Electricity Substations

A request by residents to have the substation in Highdown Road camouflaged has been investigated by NRA. EDF have agreed that approved work can be undertaken, but at residents expense.

## 13. Hedges

Overgrown hedges that border pavements have become an increasing problem on Nevill. Pedestrians are forced into the road rather than be hit in the face by branches. Mothers with pushchairs, the disabled and people with poor sight, have difficulty passing. Please keep hedges cut well back throughout the year, to leave pavements unobstructed.

## 14. Neighbourhood Police Panel:

25 March 2013

The PCSO did not attend this meeting, and as there have been several problems with these meetings, the association will look at other ways of liaising with the police.

## 15. Nevill Shares

There is another opportunity to meet neighbours and discuss ideas, on Sunday 14 April, at 2.30 pm, in St Mary's Hall, Highdown Road. All are welcome. For further information: [neville-shares@googlegroups.com](mailto:neville-shares@googlegroups.com)

## 16. Future Meetings - AGM

The AGM will be held on Monday 20 May, when nominations are invited from residents for the officers' positions. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Alan Chapman.

*The next meetings will be on Monday 23 September and Monday 13 June 2014. All meetings take place in St Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road, at 8pm.*

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